

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1490

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, GY

SUBJECT: FONMIN WILLS PLEASED WITH CONSULTATIONS IN BRAZIL

SUMMARY: FONMIN WILLS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH RESULT HIS MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THOUGH HE ADMITS COMMUNIQUE WAS ROUTINE AND THAT SOME RELATIONS STILL NOT PARTICULARLY FIRM, HE FEELS THERE IS NOW LITTLE DANGER OF HOSTILITY FROM BRAZIL AND HE BELIEVES BRAZIL NO LONGER FEARS THAT GUYANA IS LIKELY TO BECOME HOSTILE SOVIET SATELLITE. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN WILLS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH ME MORNING JULY 22 HIS RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL. WILLS INDICATED HIS MOST SIGNIFICANT CONVERSATIONS WERE WITH BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT GEISEL, THOUGH HE ALSO TALKED WITH FONMIN DA SILVEIRA AND WITH SEVERAL MILITARY OFFICERS. WILLS AND HIS BRAZILIAN COUNTERPART SIGNED COMMUNIQUE (SEPTTEL) AT END OF VISIT WHICH PROVIDED FOR COMBINING THE TWO PRESENT MORIBUND JOINT COMMISSIONS INTO ONE, WITH VERY LITTLE ELSE BUT GENERALITIES. WILLS SAID THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WAS QUITE PLEASED WITH VISIT, WHICH HE BELIEVES WENT FAR TOWARD
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DISPELLING MISUNDERSTANDING AND SUSPICION IN BRAZIL OF GUYANA'S POLITICAL POSITION, ESPECIALLY ITS TIES WITH CUBA AND ITS RELATIONS

WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

2. WILLS SAID HE ASSURED GEISEL THAT GUYANA WOULD NEVER HAVE MEANINGFUL CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. IN RESPONSE TO GEISEL'S REQUEST THAT HE EXPLAIN MEANINGFUL, WILLS SAID HE MEANT NO MILITARY OTHER THAN POSSIBLE SMALL TRAINING MISSIONS. ACCORDING WILLS, GEISEL SAID HE WAS AWARE ALTERNATIVES IN GUYANA WERE JAGAN OR BURNHAM, AND THAT CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD STRONGLY PREFER JAGAN. GEISEL SAID OR IMPLIED THAT BRAZIL'S INTEREST WAS THEREFORE TO KEEP BURNHAM IN POWER, BUT THAT BRAZIL WAS CONCERNED OVER JAGAN'S (READ SOVIETS') INFLUENCE ON BURNHAM GOVT WITH POLICY OF CRITICAL SUPPORT. WILLS BELIEVES HE ALLAYED BRAZILIAN FEAR THAT CRITICAL SUPPORT WOULD RESULT IN PNC ADOPTING JAGAN'S INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL POSTURE.

3. WILLS SAID HE GOT FIRM COMMITMENT FROM GEISEL THAT BRAZIL WOULD RESPECT COMMON BORDER WITH GUYANA. NEITHER GEISEL NOR DA SILVEIRA WAS WILLING TO EXPAND STATEMENT ON RECOGNIZED COMMON BORDER, HOWEVER, WITH COROLLARY THAT THIS RECOGNITION IMPLIED BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR EXCLUSIVE GUYANESE SOVEREIGNTY OVER TERRITORY PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY GUYANA BEYOND THAT COMMON BORDER. HOWEVER, BRAZILIAN GENERAL (NAME OF WHOM WILLS CLAIMED HE COULD NOT RECALL) AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT IF VENEZUELA MARCHED ON GUYANA, BRAZIL WOULD OPPOSE THAT ACTION BY FORCE IF NECESSARY.

4. DA SILVEIRA, ACCORDING WILLS, SAID HE BELIEVED VENEZUELA WAS BEHIND NEGATIVE PUBLICITY IN BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA RE GUYANA. ACCORDING DA SILVEIRA'S THEORY, VENEZUELA LAST SEPTEMBER CAME TO CONCLUSION THAT GUYANA'S REFUSAL TO ESTABLISH JOINT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN TERRITORY DISPUTED WITH VENEZUELA WAS DUE TO SUPPORT FROM BRAZIL, NOT CUBA. VENEZUELA THEREFORE TRIED TO BREAK UP THIS RELATIONSHIP. VENEZUELAN MAGAZINE, RESUMEN, SUPPOSEDLY PLANTED NEGATIVE INFORMATION ON GUYANA IN ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND OTHER PAPERS, THOUGH CUBANS PICKED UP ON CAMPAIGN AND AMPLIFIED IT FOR SIMILAR REASON OF CREATING HOSTILITY BETWEEN GUYANA AND BRAZIL. WILLS SAID HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THIS THEORY, BUT IT SHOWED BRAZILIAN DISTRUST OF VENEZUELA, WHICH DID NOT SADDEN HIM.

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5. DEMONSTRATING ONCE AGAIN HIS SENSITIVITY TO RACE MATTERS, WILLS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF LACK OF BLACKS AND AMERINDIANS WHICH HE OBSERVED IN HIGHER ECHELON OF BRAZILIAN MILITARY AND GOVT SERVICE. WILLS SAID HE DELIBERATELY TOOK ALONG AN AMERINDIAN FROM RUPUNUNI WHO SPIKE PORTUGUESE IN HIS ENTOURAGE, GIVING HIM HIGHER STATUS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES THAN HE GAVE HIS SECRETARY SO AS TO COUNTERACT NEGATIVE PUBLICITY IN BRAZIL RE GUYANA'S TREATMENT OF AMERINDIANS.

6. WILLS SAID HE URGED DA SILVEIRA TO SEND OBSERVER TO NON-ALINGED

CONFERENCE AT SRI LANKA. HE CLAIMS DA SILVEIRA, AFTER SOME HESITATION, AGREED TO DO SO. IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE, BRAZILIAN SIDE REFUSED TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF APARTHEID AND SOUTH AFRICA, SETTLING FOR MORE AMBIGUOUS CONDEMNATION OF COLONIALISM IN AFRICA WITH EXPLANATION THAT BRAZIL ADVOCATED ISOLATION OF TRADE RELATIONS FROM POLITICS AND INTENDED TO CONTINUE ITS TRADE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

7. REGARDING THE MIXED COMMISSION SPECIFIED IN THE COMMUNIQUE, WILLS SAID GUYANA HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR IT TO ASSUME ACTIVE ROLE

HE ESTIMATED THAT A MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED, AND THE GUYANESE SIDE WOULD SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOPED BEFORE DETERMINING WHETHER ANYTHING WOULD BE EXPECTED OF IT. ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WILLS INDICATED HE MADE SPECIFIC PITCH TO BRAZILIANS THAT THEY PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED MAZARUNI HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM. BRAZIL REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS STAGE.

8. IN CONCLUSION, WILLS SAID HE FELT THE DANGER FROM BRAZIL, WHICH HE ADMITTED MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS IMMINENT OR AS REAL AS WAS THOUGHT BY SOME A FEW MONTHS AGO, HAS BEEN ALLEVIATED. WILLS SAID HE NOW HAS TO FOCUS ON VENEZUELA AND SURINAM, SPECIFICALLY ON HIS DESIRE TO ARRANGE AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN GUYANESE PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND SURINAM'S PRIME MINISTER AARON MATTHEWS

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